

Message Text

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ACTION AF-08

INFO OCT-01 EUR-12 IO-13 ISO-00 CIAE-00 DODE-00 PM-04
H-01 INR-07 L-03 NSAE-00 NSC-05 PA-01 PRS-01
SP-02 SS-15 USIA-06 DHA-02 CU-02 /083 W
-----300246Z 027240 /63

R 291455Z MAR 77
FM AMEMBASSY CAPE TOWN
TO SECSTATE WASHDC 5886
INFO AMCONSUL DURBAN
USMISSION GENEVA
AMCONSUL JOHANNESBURG
AMEMBASSY LONDON
AMEMBASSY PRETORIA
AMEMBASSY ROME
USMISSION USUN NEW YORK

C O N F I D E N T I A L CAPE TOWN 0467

E.O. 11652: GDS
TAGS: PINT, SF, PINS, SEDU, SHUM
SUBJ: FURTHER DEVELOPMENT IN CHURCH SHCOOLS DISPUTE

REF: (A) CAPE TOWN 281, (B) CAPE TOWN 266, (C) CAPE TOWN 242

SUMMARY: PRESS REPORTS OF MEETING HELD MARCH 28 BETWEEN
SAG REPS HEADED BY EDUCATION MINISTER KOORNHOF AND CATHOLIC
CHURCH REPS HEADED BY CARDINAL MCCANN STATE THAT PARTICI-
PANTS AGREED TO REFER QUESTION OF OPEN SCHOOLS TO CABINET
AND THAT ACTION AGAINST ACHOOLS HAVING ENROLLED CHILDREN WHO
ARE EXCLUDED BY LAW WILL BE DELAYED UNTIL END OF 1977
PROVIDED NO FURTHER ADMISSIONS OF SUCH CHILDREN ARE MADE DUR-
ING 1977 OR BEGINNING OF 1978. CHURCH SPOKESMAN TOLD CONGEN
OFF PRIVATELY, AND IN CONFIDENCE, CHURCH CONSIDERS AGREEMENT
BINDING ONLY IF CABINET TAKES FAVORABLE ACTION BY END OF
JUNE. END SUMMARY.

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1. REFTELS A AND B REPORTED EFFORTS BY SAG OFFICIALS AND
CHATHOLIC CHURCH REPOS TO FIND SOLUTION TO QUESTION OF ENROLL-
MENT OF BLACK AND COLORED STUDENTS AT PREVISOUPLY ALL-WHITE
PRIVATE CHURCH SCHOOLS. THESE EFFORTS INCLUDED UNDER-
TAKING BY CHURCH TO "FREEZE" SITUATION WHILE SOLUTION
BEING WORKED OUT.

2. 2. MARCH 29 PRESS REPORTED MEETING MARCH 28 BETWEEN KOORNHOF AND OTHER GOVERNMENT OFFICIALS, INCLUDING TRANSVAAL AND CAPE ADMINISTRATORS AND CATHOLIC CHURCH REPS LED BY OWEN, CARDIANL MCCANN AND INCLUDING ARCHBISHOPS HURLEY OF DURBAN, DANIEL OF PRETORIA AND FITZGERALD, PRESIDENT OF CATHOLIC BISHOPS CONFERENCE. REPORT SAID PARTICIPANTS AGREED THAT QUESTION OF OPEN SCHOOLS WOULD BE REFERRED TO CABINET AND ACTION AGAINST SCHOOLS WOULD BE DELAYED UNTIL END OF 1977 PROVIDED NO FURTHER ADMISSIONS OF INELIGIBLE CHILDREN WOULD BE MADE "DURING THE YEAR OR THE BEGINNING OF 1978." LATTER PHRASE MADE IT APPEAR THAT CHURCH WAS AGREEING NOT TO ENROLL ADDITIONAL BLACKS EVEN ON 1978 SCHOOL YEAR. THEY ALSO AGREED THAT NO FURTHER PUBLIC STATEMENTS WOULD BE MADE.

3. BISHOP STEVEN NAIDOO TOLD CONGENOFF IN STRICT CONFIDENCE MARCH 29 THAT CHURCH AGREE TO ABOVE LANGUAGE AT REQUEST OF KOORNHOF AS FACE-SAVING DEVICE FOR SAG AND TO FORESTALL CRITICISM FROM RIGHT-WING ELEMENTS. HE SAID PRIVATE UNDERSTANDING IS THAT MATTER WILL BE REFERRED TO CABINET IN JUNE (AFTER PARLIAMENT HAD DISOLVED) TO SEEK CHANGE IN REGULATIONS WHICH WOULD PLACE PRIVATE SCHOOLS UNDER NATIONAL RATHER THAN PROVINCIAL JURISDICTION AND THUS PERMIT MINISTRY OF EDUCATION TO PROMULGATE RULES ALLOWING PRIVATE SCHOOLS TO SET THEIR OWN ADMISSIONS POLICIES. IN ANSWER TO QUESTION, BISHOP NAIDOO SAID IF CABINET FAILED TO TAKE POSITIVE ACTION IN JUNE, CHURCH WOULD NOT FEEL ITSELF BOUND TO CONTINUE THE STATUS

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QUO. IN ANY CASE, HE SAID CHURCH WOULD NOT BACK DOWN ON STAND WHICH IT HAS TAKEN ON PRINCIPLE.

4. BISHOP NAIDOO'S COMMENTS, WHICH SHOULD NOT BE DISCUSSED OUTSIDE DG CIRCLES, INDICATE CONTINUING EFFORT ON PART OF SAG AND CHURCH OFFICIALS TO AVOID CONFRONTATION. AT SAME TIME, ELABORATE MANEUVERING TO AVOID APPEARANCE OF MAJOR CHANGE IN GOVERNMENT POLICIES IS ONE MORE INDICATION OF STRONG SAG SENSITIVITY TO POSSIBLE WHITE BACKLASH AND CONVICTION THAT CHANGE AS IS PERMITTED MUST BE MUFFLED AND DISGUISED TO GREATEST POSSIBLE EXTENT. BOWDLER

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Message Attributes

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Current Classification: UNCLASSIFIED
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Control Number: n/a
Copy: SINGLE
Sent Date: 29-Mar-1977 12:00:00 am
Decaption Date: 01-Jan-1960 12:00:00 am
Decaption Note:
Disposition Action: RELEASED
Disposition Approved on Date:
Disposition Case Number: n/a
Disposition Comment: 25 YEAR REVIEW
Disposition Date: 22 May 2009
Disposition Event:
Disposition History: n/a
Disposition Reason:
Disposition Remarks:
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Document Unique ID: 00
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TAGS: PINT, PINS, SEDU, SHUM, SF
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